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General Assembly

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A/RES/53/190
12 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 94 (*d*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/609/Add.4)*]

53/190. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/201 of 18 December 1997 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling further Agenda 21,[2] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[3]

Deeply concerned about the continued loss of the world's biological diversity, and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity,

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] A/53/451, annex.

the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Recognizing the contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[4] relating to intellectual property rights and the relationship of the Convention with other international agreements,

Noting the dialogue taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,[5]

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention, and satisfied that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Colombia to host the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will take place at Cartagena de Indias from 15 to 19 February and on 22 and 23 February 1999, respectively,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the result of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Noting the importance of decision IV/6, in particular paragraph 11 thereof, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[4]

1. *Welcomes* the results of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Bratislava from 4 to 15 May 1998;[4]

2. *Also welcomes* decision IV/16, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[4] on the adoption of the programmes of work and the thematic approach adopted to guide its work in the development of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosystems;

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[4] See UNEP/CBD/COP/4/27, annex.

[5] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

3. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties, to use science-based analysis to study and monitor closely the evolution of new technologies to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which might have an impact on farmers and local communities;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the adoption of a protocol on biosafety at the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter;

5. *Welcomes* decision IV/15, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[4] in which it stressed the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention and World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights;

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of decision IV/15, in which the Conference of the Parties emphasized that further work is required to help develop a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on issues relating to technology transfer and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, including the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes, taking into account the need for financial resources to support the implementation activities, in particular those of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Welcomes* decision IV/8, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[4] in which it decided to establish a panel of experts to implement the terms outlined in the decision;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of national action to conserve biological diversity in many habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular article 8, and the need to mobilize national and international support for such national actions;

11. *Welcomes* decision IV/16, adopted by of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,[4] in which it decided to include an item entitled "Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitat or species" in the agenda of its sixth meeting;

12. *Recognizes* the utility of information exchange, and encourages the development of biodiversity information networks at the national, regional and international levels;

13. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the programme of work;

14. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies[6] and the Convention secretariat;

15. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

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[6] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992, articles 23.4 (g) and 25.

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A/RES/53/191
18 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 94 (*e*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/609/Add.5)*]

53/191. Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1]

Reiterating its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies[2] envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held at Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997,[3]

Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

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[1] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[2] As defined in accordance with articles 22, paragraph 2 (c), and 24 of the Convention.

[3] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 4/COP.1.

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the interim secretariat in contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in promoting public awareness,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session,[4]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[5] on the implementation of resolution 52/198, submitted in accordance with paragraph 21 thereof, and noting in this context the statement made on 22 October 1998 to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by all actors in implementing the provisions of the Convention,[6]

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at Dakar, from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Also calls upon* all countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

4. *Notes* that the United Nations, the Convention secretariat and the Government of Germany signed a headquarters agreement on 18 August 1998,[7] which will be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session for adoption, subject to ratification by the German Parliament;

5. *Invites* the host Government and the Convention secretariat to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat and its effective functioning at Bonn, and also invites the secretariat to continue its efforts with a view to finalizing the relocation as soon as possible;

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[4] See ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

[5] A/53/516.

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Second Committee*, 22nd meeting, and corrigendum.

[7] ICCD/COP(2)/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

6. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt start to its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on or before 1 January of each year, starting in 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[8] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some States parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions in support of the activities and functioning of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, to be established by 1 January 1999 in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;[9]

11. *Also calls upon* developing countries that are parties to the Convention to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of national action programmes, and calls for the implementation of those adopted through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of the contributions of non-governmental organizations;

12. *Further calls upon* the international community, in particular the developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the process of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

13. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its second session to facilitate and launch the process of elaborating and negotiating an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

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[8] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, para. 14.

[9] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998

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25 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 95

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/53/610)*]

53/192. Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, taking into account the views of Member States, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/42 of 26 July 1996 and 1998/26 of 28 July 1998,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have an important role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities and should therefore be country-driven,

Also stressing, in that context, the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

Further stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Noting, in this context, the activities of United Nations funds and programmes aimed at providing technical assistance to recipient countries, in response to their national economic and social needs and priorities, including poverty eradication and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development, for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and stressing the need for those activities to be undertaken at the request of interested recipient Governments strictly within the respective mandates of United Nations funds and programmes, which should receive increased contributions from donor countries,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Emphasizing that developing countries are responsible for their development processes, and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their national development efforts,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 47/199, 50/120 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B, and stresses the need to implement fully, based on lessons learned, all the elements of these resolutions in a coherent and timely manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

4. *Notes* the efforts made in order to rationalize and to improve the function and impact of United Nations funds and programmes;

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[1] A/53/226 and Add.1–4.

I

A. *Reform of United Nations operational activities*

5. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to focus their efforts at the field level on priority areas, in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the mandates, mission statements and relevant decisions of their governing bodies, in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the complementarity and impact of their work;

6. *Also stresses* that, in the context of the reform of the United Nations Secretariat and the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental process, the mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities;

B. *Funding for United Nations operational activities*

7. *Notes with regret* that, although significant progress has already been achieved on the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of that overall change process, any increase in core resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis;

8. *Expresses serious concern* at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

10. *Strongly reaffirms* that the impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, *inter alia*, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of resolutions 47/199, 48/162, 50/120 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of resolution 52/12 B;

11. *Stresses* the need for continuous overall improvement in the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the United Nations system in delivering its development assistance, and welcomes steps that have been taken towards that end;

12. *Notes with appreciation* the sustained contributions of many donors and recipient countries to operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership;

13. *Urges* developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

14. *Stresses* that other countries that are in a position to do so should strive to augment their assistance in the framework of development cooperation;

15. *Notes* the importance of non-core resources, including cost-sharing, trust funds and non-traditional sources of financing, as a mechanism to enhance the capacity and to supplement the means of operational activities for development;

16. *Notes* the discussions on funding strategies in the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, including, *inter alia*, the decisions adopted recently by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund[2] as part of ongoing efforts by Member States to reverse the declining trend in core resources and to put funding for United Nations development activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the needs of the developing countries, and in this context urges the expeditious and productive outcome of these and other discussions of the executive boards, and invites the Economic and Social Council to consider, on an annual basis, the overall financial picture of the funds and programmes;

C. *United Nations Development Assistance Framework*

17. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which is currently in a pilot phase,[3] should promote a country-driven, collaborative and coherent response by the United Nations system to achieve greater impact at the country level, fully consistent with and in support of national priorities as expressed in the country strategy notes or relevant national development plans, as appropriate;

18. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring full government participation in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its full ownership through the agreement of the recipient Governments concerned to the finalized Framework, bearing in mind that the responsibility for coordination of all assistance and developmental activities rests with the national Government;

19. *Also stresses* the need to ensure the full and active participation of the funds and programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

20. *Notes* the importance of closer consultation, in the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, among national Governments, relevant United Nations development agencies, including specialized agencies, and other relevant development partners;

21. *Also notes* that the country strategy note remains a voluntary initiative and that where it does not exist, other similar frameworks reflecting national priorities should be used as the basis for the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, to ensure that the Framework fully responds to national development priorities and needs;

22. *Further notes* the role that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should play to facilitate, *inter alia*, the contribution of the United Nations to the coordinated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences at the field level and the importance of the common country assessment for the effective formulation of the Framework;

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[2] See DP/1999/2.

[3] See A/53/226, paras. 72-77, and A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 88-98.

D. *Resident coordinator system*

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to make the resident coordinator system more participatory in its functioning at the field level by, *inter alia*, making greater use of thematic groups and adopting a more consultative approach within the United Nations system;

24. *Notes* the improvements in the functioning of the resident coordinator system, and encourages further progress in close consultation with national Governments;

25. *Encourages* further efforts, including through the United Nations Development Group, to further improve the resident coordinator system, and welcomes the efforts to continue to broaden the base of recruitment of resident coordinators, increasing the number of women resident coordinators and improving its selection criteria and procedures, including through the use of competency assessment and training and by ensuring that the resident coordinators take fully into account the mandates of all organizations of the resident coordinator system;

26. *Reaffirms* that resident coordinators, in full consultation with national Governments, should facilitate a coherent and coordinated United Nations follow-up to major international conferences at the field level;

27. *Requests* the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to provide support to the resident coordinator system;

E. *United Nations Development Group*

28. *Urges* the United Nations Development Group to work in a fully transparent and accountable manner towards a more coherent United Nations performance in the development field, while respecting the specific mandates and identity of its members;

II

A. *Planning, programming and implementation*

29. *Stresses* that the needs and priorities of recipient countries require flexibility and decentralization of operational activities to the country level, as well as the continued application of those measures, to enhance further programme responsiveness and impact;

30. *Decides* that, with the agreement of the host country, the United Nations development system should assist national Governments in creating an enabling environment in which the links between national Governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are involved in the development process are strengthened, with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems in accordance with national policies and priorities;

31. *Calls* for the further simplification, harmonization and rationalization of procedures for operational activities of the United Nations development system at the field level, where possible, and developing common databases, in consultation with national Governments;

32. *Urges* the funds and programmes to put in place specific measures and timetables to advance the simplification and harmonization of procedures and to report on these to their respective governing bodies;

33. *Also calls* for the United Nations development system to promote greater consistency in the presentation of budgets at the headquarters level and, at the field level, the sharing of administrative systems and services;

34. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the outcome of the major United Nations conferences through fulfilling the commitments and targets agreed upon at those conferences, and in this context stresses the importance of accelerating efforts for the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences, and in this context welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1998/290 of 31 July 1998, in which the Council decided to start, on a step-by-step basis, an intergovernmental process on relevant indicators to monitor the implementation of conference outcomes at all levels, and in this context also welcomes the decision to hold an informal Council meeting on this issue in 1999;

35. *Encourages* greater cooperation between the World Bank, regional development banks and all funds and programmes, with a view to increased complementarity and better division of labour as well as enhanced coherence in their sectoral activities, building on the existing arrangements and fully in accordance with the priorities of the recipient Government;

36. *Notes* the current initiatives in pursuing common premises and the need to take fully into account cost-benefit studies as called for by relevant resolutions, and encourages further implementation of such initiatives, where appropriate, while ensuring that there will be no additional burden imposed on host countries;

B. *Capacity-building*

37. *Reaffirms* that capacity-building and its sustainability should be explicitly articulated as a goal of technical assistance provided by the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of strengthening national capacities in the fields of, *inter alia*, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and review;

C. *Humanitarian assistance*

38. *Expresses concern* at the growing number of natural disasters and environmental emergencies that often strike countries that lack the resources to cope with them adequately;

39. *Recognizes* that the phases of relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are generally not consecutive but often overlap and occur simultaneously, and notes the urgent need to develop, through a strategic framework, when appropriate, a comprehensive approach to countries in crisis, and that the development of such a comprehensive approach must involve national authorities as well as the United Nations system, donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and that national authorities must take a leading role in all aspects of the recovery plan, and also notes in this context the need for an early application of developmental tools in humanitarian emergencies, and takes note with appreciation of the recommendations included in the report of the Secretary-General in this regard;[1]

40. *Stresses* that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

D. *Regional dimension*

41. *Stresses* the growing need for incorporating the regional and subregional dimension in United Nations operational activities for development, and encourages the resident coordinators, in close consultation with Governments, to secure greater involvement of the regional commissions, taking into account their agreed mandates and work programmes, in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as appropriate;

E. *Cross-cutting themes*

1. *South-South cooperation/technical and economic cooperation among developing countries*

42. *Requests* the United Nations system to take appropriate measures to improve the effective incorporation of technical cooperation among developing countries into their programmes and projects and to intensify efforts towards mainstreaming the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries, including through support to the activities of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and encourages other relevant international institutions to undertake similar measures;

43. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, offers viable opportunities for the development of developing countries, and in this context requests the executive boards of the funds and programmes to review, with a view to considering an increase, the allocation of resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries;

44. *Notes with satisfaction* the broad-based support for technical cooperation among developing countries expressed by Member States at the twentieth anniversary commemoration of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;[4]

45. *Takes note with appreciation* of the recommendations on strengthening the integration of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Gender*

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August–12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[5] A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 35-54.

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations development system to take all measures to ensure gender balance when making appointments, including at the senior level and in the field, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

47. *Stresses* the need for gender mainstreaming in operational activities of the United Nations system in all fields, in particular in support of poverty eradication;

3. *National execution*

48. *Decides* that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible and practicable, available national expertise and indigenous technologies in the implementation of operational activities;

49. *Calls upon* all funds and programmes to consider ways to increase, within existing rules and regulations, the procurement of goods and services from developing countries, both as a mechanism to promote South-South cooperation and for enhancing national execution;

50. *Calls* for further work on the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel, including national consultants, in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system, in order to enhance the coherence of the system;

51. *Requests* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to work on promoting, improving and expanding national execution, including through the simplification and strengthening of relevant procedures, so as to contribute to the advancement of national ownership and to enhance the absorptive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries in Africa;

III

Monitoring and evaluation

52. *Recognizes* that the monitoring and evaluation process of operational activities, including joint evaluations, should be impartial and independent, under the overall leadership of the Government;

53. *Takes note* of the report on pilot evaluation conducted on the impact of operational activities and the need to continue these evaluations with the full and effective involvement of the recipient Government concerned in the process of such evaluation;

54. *Emphasizes* the importance of disseminating the experience of effective and efficient cooperation within the United Nations development system;

55. *Underlines* the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on issues relating to evaluation among recipient Governments, the United Nations development system, in particular the members of the United Nations Development Group, and relevant development partners at the country level;

56. *Recognizes*, in that context, the need to strengthen capacities of the recipient countries to perform both effective programme, project and financial monitoring and impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations;

57. *Requests* that the United Nations system strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that the lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied to programming processes at the operational level and that evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage;

IV

Follow-up

58. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

59. *Invites* the executive boards of the United Nations funds and programmes to ensure that the heads of those funds and programmes include in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994, a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial policy review and the follow-up to international conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present a progress report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

61. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1999 and 2000, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

62. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, to consider, *inter alia*, the issues of poverty eradication and capacity-building and, at its substantive session of 2000, to consider, *inter alia*, harmonization and simplification, including of programming, and resources, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations;

63. *Decides*, as an integral part of the next triennial policy review of operational activities, in consultation with Member States, to conduct an evaluation of the impact of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the field of operational activities, and requests the Secretary-General to report, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2001, on the results of such an evaluation, including lessons learned and recommendations made, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, and also requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the Economic and Social Council on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

91st plenary meeting
15 December 1998